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TRAGIC STORY OF OPIUM RING INVOLVES HONOLULU PEOPLE

The true story of the death of Fourth Officer Edward Morse of the Pacific Mail liner Manchuria, was learned by his many acquaintances here today, when word came from the Coast that he lost his life at Manila as the result of his operations with the opium smuggling gang that works in the Orient, Honolulu and San Francisco.

The San Francisco Call of November 1 tells the dramatic story as follows:

The inner secrets of a band of opium smugglers—how they landed the drug in San Francisco, how they were cheated by a thieving "agent" in Honolulu, how one of them lost his life in Manila bay last month trying to swim ashore at midnight with a line from the ship—were revealed yesterday to John L. McNab, United States attorney, and W. H. Tidwell, special agent of the treasury department, in a dramatic narrative at the investigation.

For nearly a year the "ring," composed entirely of officers aboard the Pacific Mail liner Manchuria, and their receiving agents in Manila, Honolulu and San Francisco, has been engaged in a highly profitable trade and the facts might not have been brought to light had it not been for the peculiar circumstances surrounding the death of Fourth Officer Edward Morse, one of the smugglers, whose body was found floating alongside the ship in Manila Bay on the last outbound voyage.

A fellow conspirator of Morse, in his terror, told the whole story to the chief steward, who in turn repeated it to John P. Bourne, the purser, and by the time the Manchuria tied up in San Francisco it was pretty well known what object and what prize young Morse had in view for himself and his fellows: when he lowered himself over the ship's rail at Manila and swam away in the darkness, Story Makes Round.

Bourne, who had the story indirectly from J. S. Svogar, main deck watchman, who was in the galley, told it to the investigators yesterday, and M. R. Zuvic, the third officer, to whom the tale had been related by a frightened Chinese deck boy, corroborated the account. There was scarcely any variation, and as a result Svogar and the two other known conspirators, Second Officer W. W. Riehl and Fifth Officer R. W. Locke, face criminal prosecution on a serious smuggling charge.

The Manchuria on its last trip to the Orient, brought many thousands of dollars' worth of opium from the Orient, but there was no opportunity to land any considerable quantity of it. The young officers who had embarked in the dangerous venture, Morse, Locke, Riehl and the watchman, Svogar, decided to dispose of it in Honolulu, but there they were thwarted again, and most of it was still on board when the vessel turned its prow westward from Hawaii.

Manila offered the only remaining chance for a quick sale and the traffickers decided to unload it there. Gangsters Plan Aboard.

An ingenious plan had been devised to evade the customs inspectors, involving an enormous risk. The first night two of the smugglers went ashore after being searched and under cover of darkness Svogar swam from the ship to the breakwater, a distance of 135 yards, carrying a line to which was attached a heavier line made fast on the vessel. At a signal from shore, the conspirators who remained behind lowered into the water a bundle of opium tied to a life preserver, which was then pulled ashore.

"Svogar had difficulty reaching the breakwater, and when it was planned to take the next consignment ashore, the night of September 17, Fourth Officer Morse was chosen to make the swim. Svogar and Locke went ashore and were waiting in an automobile a short distance from the point where Morse was expected to land. Second Officer Riehl and a Chinese boat-swain stayed aboard to pay out the line to the swimmer and lower the opium when he signaled. Morse hitched the rope around his body and struck out for the shore. Plotter Meets Death.

Two hours passed and no signal came to the waiting men. Riehl and the Chinese began to haul in the rope and presently a dark, dripping object appeared in the dim light of the cargo port. It was Morse's body, already lifeless and cold. Panic stricken and without lights, they tied weights to the body and dropped it again into the bay. No opium went ashore that night, and the men in the automobile waited until nearly dawn. "The next day Svogar went to W. E. Veazie, the chief steward, with the story. The following day, September 19, the lookout discovered the body floating alongside, the line still tied around the trunk under the right shoulder. Bourne said he went below and told Second Officer Riehl, who started quickly and appeared greatly agitated. After a moment Riehl asked: "Say, Bourne, is he swimming?"

"Bourne replied that the body was lifeless. Riehl then rushed up on deck and lowered himself to the water's edge, where, in plain sight of a dozen men, he tore off the rope from around the dead man's shoulders and let it drop back in the water. Bourne said he saw the act, and he was corroborated by the chief engineer, William L. Bunker, and by Third Officer Zuvic.

Zuvic told substantially the same story from beginning to end, saying it had come to him from a Chinese boy who had been a witness to some of the events. The night Morse met his death, he told, further what he knew about the San Francisco and Honolulu smuggling acts of the ring, implicating several customs inspectors at both ports.

Second Officer Riehl, Fifth Officer Locke and Watchman Svogar were questioned by Attorney McNab, and all denied that they knew anything of the death of Morse. They appeared to be nervous, and without exception said they had not heard any of the rumors about the drowning until they reached port. Riehl admitted casting a line from about the floating body, but said it had not been fastened.

Instructions were cabled to Manila to have the bay dragged for the anchor and ropes that were used in the effort to conceal Morse's body. The ship at the time of the drowning was lying in three fathoms of water.

Zuvic testified a quartermaster on the Manchuria named McKenzie had quit the ship in Honolulu early in the summer to act as agent for the smugglers, but after picking up \$3,000 worth of opium thrown overboard to him off Makapuu Point he decamped and spent the money.

If Veazie, the chief steward, can be located he will go on the stand to tell his version of Svogar's confession. Meantime, the accused conspirators are still at large.

**Over-Night
FEDERAL
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To the Advertiser**

Informal negotiations for the surrender of Constantinople have been already entered upon, according to the correspondent of the Reichspost with the Bulgarian army.

The second great result of the decisive attack of the Third Bulgarian Army upon Yenikoi, says the correspondent, was that the Turkish right wing was completely severed from the main forces; it was driven from the heights east of Istanbul into the forest region by Lake Derkos and cut off from the center which likewise had been beaten by the Bulgarian columns, advancing south of Istanbul Valley.

A lasting and permanent victory was won by Progressives on Tuesday in the crystallization of a great public sentiment founded on a moral conception. That immediate success did not come in candidate in of his co-operation," declared Governor Hiram W. Johnson, who is on his way to his home in California, after an exciting campaign in the East.

The steamer Royal George, stranded Wednesday morning on the bar of Orleans in the St. Lawrence river, was still hard and fast on the rocks today, with stevedores passengers aboard, while bad weather held logs at bay.

So violent was the storm that the command of British stopped her engines and anchored near Grosbeak Isle.

The steamer Vidette, which left Dawson four days ago with one hundred passengers for White Horse, ran into heavy ice on Indian River and is now stalled there. The river is closed, thus wife of Indian River city, and the steamer cannot return.

The trial of "Whitely" Lewis, "Lefty" Lewis, "Gee the Blood" and "Duke Frank," indicted for murdering Herman Rosenthal, the gambler, on July 16, at the bidding of Police Lieutenant Charles E. Becker, who is now in the "Death House" in Sing Sing prison, awaiting death in the electric chair for his part in the same crime, began today in the criminal branch of the supreme court, presided over by Justice John W. Goff.

Capt. J. S. Johnson, Coast Artillery Corps, is relieved from assignment with the 105th Company and is placed on detached service. He will go to Honolulu in December.

Loot of \$40,000 was taken by bandits who robbed a southbound express train on the Louisville & Nashville railroad at Blount Springs early today. The bandits entered the mail car, armed the clerks by a flourish of revolvers, took several registered mail bags, then signaled for the engineer to stop the train, and escaped in the country a few miles north of Birmingham.

Posses are on their trail.

Sufficient Democratic strength in the Illinois legislature to enable that party to elect two United States Senators to succeed Shelby M. Cullom and William Lorimer, rejected, appear as a possibility today with the increase of Democratic votes from southern counties.

The Shasta Limited train for Portland was held up at 8:10 o'clock to night near here by three bandits, one of whom was shot by a brakeman. The other two escaped with the registered mail.

Posses are in pursuit.

Contraband opium to the value of \$7000 was found secreted in the galley of the Japanese steamship Ohito Maru, by customs officers in San Francisco yesterday.

This is the first opium found in many months on a vessel of the Toyo IsenKa Kaisha Steamship Company.

The establishment of a chain of aeroplane depots along the Pacific Coast from the Mexican to the Canadian border, as an auxiliary to the Coast Artillery Corps, is the idea incorporated in a plan recently advocated by the war department for the more mobile defense of the Coast of California, Oregon and Washington.

Holiday Advertising

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according to Lieutenant Augustus Norton, of the Coast Artillery Corps, who is in Los Angeles today.

Messages were exchanged last night by the navy wireless station on Point Loma and the big new navy wireless station in Arlington, Virginia, near Washington, approximately 3500 miles across the continent. This is the first time messages from the wireless station near Washington have been heard distinctly on this coast.

Robert L. Fowler, the aviator who started from Los Angeles in a race with a Cadillac car and was to have landed at the Empress Theater in San Francisco on Sunday, stated definitely today that his proposed flight had been abandoned, owing to his fall near Eugene, in which his aeroplane was completely wrecked.

Charles Soule, the driver of the Cadillac car, continued his race and succeeded in breaking the record from Los Angeles to San Francisco.

Joseph A. McCann, a plumber,

twenty-two years old, and Miss Adelaide G. Stone, a resident of Honolulu, who has been spending the past four months in San Francisco succeeded in eluding their relatives and were married yesterday in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

SOMETHING FOR MOTHERS.

This is the season of the year when mothers feel very much concerned over the frequent colds contracted by their children, and have abundant reason for it, as every cold weakens the lungs, lowers the vitality and paves the way for the more serious diseases that so often follow. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is famous for its cures, and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by all dealers. Bewan, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaii.

The Belgian police failed a post to steal valuable relics from a church at Namur. The plot was conceived by a sailor, acquitted some years ago of a murder through the means of a public petition.



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